

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement sheets are enclosed, bearing FIGS. 1, 3 and 5, with the following changes made:

In FIG. 1, the reference number 10 is added.

In FIG. 3, the German word "Spitzenelektrode" is translated to "Tip Electrode."

In FIG. 5, the following changes are made:

- Reference number 58 replaces the previous location of reference number 50
- A cable is added and is labeled 50. This was described in the specification, and so does not constitute new matter, at:
- Reference number 62 is added.
- The German word "Kontakt" is translated into "Contact".

REMARKS**Pending Claims**

Entry of the above-noted amendments is requested. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-4 and 6-12 are pending. Claim 1 is amended herein, as are all of the remaining claims in light of their dependence upon claim 1. Claim 5 is cancelled.

Drawings and Objections Thereto

The Applicant has submitted three replacement sheets (bearing FIGS. 1, 3 and 5) for this application along with this Response. These changes are made in response to the Examiner's objections to the drawings. To address the objection with respect to claim 9, claim 9 is amended.

Specification

The Applicant has amended the specification and abstract in accord with the points noted by Examiner:

- Title is amended
- Section headings are added
- On original page 8, lines 2 and 20, reference 36 is changed to 26 to designate the fluid passage.
- On original page 9, line 10, cavity 26 is changed to "24".
- On original page 6, paragraph 5, amendment is made to reference Fig. 4

No new matter is added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 5 and 8 are rejected for indefiniteness. Claim 5 is cancelled. In claim 8, the Applicant respectfully notes that claim 8 recites that the “hollow **body**” has an outside diameter which is approximately equal to the outside diameter of the proximal electrode or the insulator. It does not recites that the hollow **space** has an outside diameter. Therefore, the Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Art Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

The Examiner has rejected all claims on the basis of art. Claims 1-4 and 8 are rejected as lacking novelty in light of Maguire. Claims 6 and 10 are rejected as being obvious in light of a combination of Maguire and Lalonde. Claims 7 and 9 are rejected as obvious in light of a combination of Maguire and Klicek.

The Applicant submits that these rejections are moot in light of amendments to the claims. Nevertheless, the Applicant notes that Maguire’s catheter fails to show a stiff probe having the recited “mechanical strength”. Because Maguire’s catheter is presented as advantageously flexible, it teaches away from a stiff probe having the recited mechanical strength: “Tip portion 10 is, as is standard, relatively flexible to be maneuverable and placeable in different configurations by one or more manipulators...”, Col. 3, lines 46-48. The word “catheter” implies a flexible tube:

catheter: A hollow, flexible tube inserted into a body cavity, duct, or vessel to allow the passage of fluids or distend a passageway. The American Heritage Science Dictionary

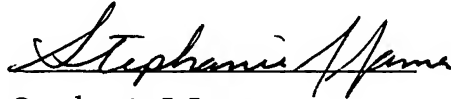
In addition, the Applicant notes that the hollow body is recited as being electrically conductive. None of the references show the combination of features recited in claim 1 and therefore it, and the dependent claims are asserted to be patentable over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

All of the claims remaining in this application should now be seen to be in condition for allowance. The prompt issuance of a notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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By its attorneys:

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